



**Division 10**

COUNTIES SERVED | Anson, Cabarrus,  
Mecklenburg, Stanly, Union



**Division 10 Transportation Crews are Ready for Winter Weather**

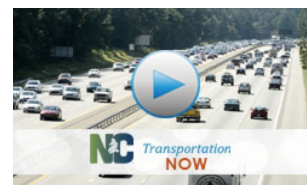
The Department of Transportation doesn't wait for the first cold snap to be ready for inclement weather. Maintenance crews across Division 10, which include Anson, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Stanly and Union counties, continue to prepare for whatever winter has in store.

Across the state, 3,200 employees are trained to use more than 2,500 pieces of equipment like tandem trucks, spreaders and motor graders. Crews typically perform dry runs of snow and ice routes in October and November to make drivers familiar with routes in each county and to assess any necessary equipment repairs.

In addition, NCDOT can store up to 170,000 tons of salt and sand, and more than 1.5 million gallons of brine - a mixture of water and 23 percent salt used to pre-treat roadways before a storm hits. When a storm threatens the area, NCDOT pre-treats roadways, bridges and overpasses to keep ice from bonding to the pavement.

You can find out more about how NCDOT gets ready for winter storms on the [DOT website](http://www.ncdot.gov/dot). Motorists can also visit the [Traveler Services](http://www.ncdot.gov/traveler) section of NCDOT.gov for real-time travel information or follow NCDOT on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/ncdot).

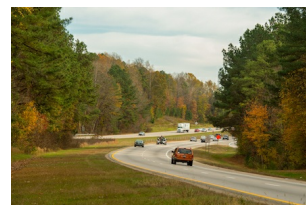
**Stay Connected**



**North Carolina  
Transportation Now**

This week on [NC Transportation Now](http://www.ncdot.gov/transportationnow), employees are recognized for their heroism.

[Click here](http://www.ncdot.gov/transportationnow) for more information from the NCDOT Newsroom.



**Christmas Driving Tips**

As Christmas approaches, the Department of Transportation has some tips for navigating the highways safely during your travels.

- Leave early to get a head start. Travel at non-peak hours if possible.
- Stay alert.
- Be patient and obey the speed limit.
- Use alternative routes, when possible, to avoid traffic congestion.
- Stay informed. Real time travel information is available



## **Hurricane Continues to Impact Eastern North Carolina *Recovery to Continue into 2017***

Hurricane Matthew continues to impact eastern North Carolina.

More than 600 roads in the state were damaged by the Oct. 8 hurricane. Transportation workers have been tirelessly assessing and repairing the damage.

At press time, approximately 153 roads remain affected from hurricane damage throughout eastern North Carolina.

Debris removal, shoulder repairs and pipe replacements will likely continue throughout December and into 2017.

Several of the division engineers thank the public for their patience during this time. NCDOT personnel look forward to completing all of the Hurricane Matthew repairs.

For real time information on roads, check the Traveler Services section on [www.ncdot.gov](http://www.ncdot.gov) or follow NCDOT on Twitter.

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- Don't drive drowsy. Travel at times you are normally awake, and take frequent breaks.
- Avoid distracted driving.

## **Save Money on Holiday Travel**

Check out this [press release](#) for information on how to save money with the NC Quick Pass Transponder Sale.

## **We Need Your Input!**

The N.C. Department of Transportation has opened the department's second annual customer survey.

All citizen feedback will be collected online at [go.ncsu.edu/customerservice2016](http://go.ncsu.edu/customerservice2016).

The survey takes 15 minutes to complete and the survey link is mobile friendly.

The N.C. General Assembly requires the survey to gauge how the transportation department is providing great customer service. Participation can help NCDOT identify ways to make North Carolina transportation services safer, more efficient and customer focused.

The online survey will close December 31.

The results will be available to the public on NCDOT.gov in 2017.

## **Thanksgiving Click It or Ticket Campaign Yields 1,961 Safety Belt Violations**

State and local law enforcement officers issued 1,961 seat belt and 340 child passenger violations during the Governor's Highway Safety Program's Thanksgiving *Click It or Ticket* enforcement campaign on Nov. 20-26.

## Wildfires Scorch Miles of Mountains Transportation Crews Assist when Asked

ASHEVILLE - Department of Transportation crews posted a handful of digital message boards in Western North Carolina that roads were closed due to wildfire during November.

More than 20 separate wildfire complexes scorched in excess of 70,000 acres and forced neighborhood evacuations from Swain County to McDowell County. Pockets of North Carolina were left with hazardous air quality.

Despite the devastation, only four major highways needed to be closed. Transportation officials worked with various agencies to organize the closures and set up marked detours.

A seven-mile stretch of U.S. 64/74A and N.C. 9 in Rutherford County - the main route through Chimney Rock Village and Lake Lure - closed on Nov. 11 due to the Party Rock Fire. The same fire closed a shorter stretch of N.C. 9 on Nov. 16. Both opened on the evening of Nov. 20 and allowed business to open the next day for residents and visitors.

A fire in Swain County closed 14 miles of U.S. 74/N.C. 19 through the Nantahala Gorge for about 48 hours starting on Nov. 12. In McDowell County, the Clear Creek Fire forced the closure of N.C. 80 from Old Toms Creek to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

In all, less than 35 miles of roads were closed to help crews battle the wildfires, which consumed more than 110 square miles of land in Western North Carolina. Governor McCrory declared a state of emergency and a burn ban on Nov. 11 and transportation officials reminded motorists of the ban through digital messaging on message mounts in the mountains.

"We were able to help and do our part with the closures and the detours," Division 13 Maintenance Engineer Mark Gibbs said. "We were happy to assist our friends at the N.C. Forest Service, the U.S. Forest Service and all of the local agencies."

### NOTABLE NEWS RELEASES

[Indian Trail Road is Scheduled to Open This Weekend](#)

[Two Mecklenburg Bridges Open to Traffic This Afternoon](#)

[Section of Secrest-Shortcut Road to Close Nov. 18](#)

[NCDOT Wants Feedback on Proposed Noise Walls for Monroe Expressway](#)

[Improvements Coming to I-77 South of Charlotte](#)

[Traffic Shifts Coming to I-85](#)

[Get Informed on Drone Safety This Holiday Season](#)

"No one ever plans to be in a traffic crash, so the *Click It or Ticket* campaign is about saving lives and changing the way people think," said Don Nail, director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program. "The seat-belt enforcement efforts are about reminding people that failing to buckle-up is not worth risking a ticket, a traffic crash, or your life."

Over the holiday enforcement period, state and local law enforcement agencies held 2,786 checkpoints and stepped-up patrols, issuing 3,209 traffic and criminal violations. The top five counties for occupant restraint violations were:

- Wake County: 210
- Guilford County: 100
- Robeson County: 100
- Forsyth County: 99
- Lenoir County: 96
- Cabarrus County: 90

In its 23rd year, the *Click It or Ticket* education and enforcement campaign reminds motorists that wearing a seat belt is the single most effective action that a person can take to save their life. The campaign aims to increase driver seat belt usage rates and reduce fatalities across North Carolina and has yielded significant results over the years. Between 2010 and 2014, an average of 545 lives were saved per year due to the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles.

The overall seat belt usage rate for North Carolina increased from 89.9 percent in 2015 to 91.7 percent in 2016. The Governor's Highway Safety Program believes that increased enforcement efforts from law enforcement and the expansion of public awareness campaigns will result in maintaining a high usage rate.

For county by [county totals](#) and more information regarding the [Click It or Ticket](#) program, visit the [GHSP website](#)

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